INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State



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Due to very limited amount of hard information re U.S.-Soviet, UN, and Soviet-Castro negotiations recently appearing in press or available for us to pass on, I sense our principal Venezuelan contacts would like to obtain more authoritative

news from us than they are getting and some may be uneasy that we are holding back information re developments and U.S. intentions which they consider vital to formulation

RMR their own policies.

While recognizing need security these matters, this could be mitigated if it were possible for Department fairly frequently prepare confidential roundup to pass on orally to President Betancourt and limited number other trustworthy contacts. Such evidence of willingness on our part to provide information might also encourage Venezuelans become more forthcoming about their problems and views than they have been in last several days, as well as provide more frequent occasions for contacts. Perhaps Department would want institute system with other selected LA posts.

STEWART

8:35 PM

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